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EXCISE E

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ACTION SS 70

INFO SSO 00,NSCE 00,DODE 00,CIAE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,/070 W

P R 281245Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7801
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4376
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1026
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2631

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7167

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN CONVERSATION EVENING SEPT 28 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY [redacted] SAID THAT SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET VOTED ON ITS RECOMMENDATION WITH REGARD TO VALIDITY OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. [redacted] EXPECTS DECISION TO BE TAKEN MORNING SEPT 29, OR IN AFTERNOON AT LATEST. [redacted] IS ONE OF TWO DEPUTIES WHO VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; THE OTHER IS [redacted] CLAIMS BOTH ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE, WHICH

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WOULD BRING EFFECTIVE STRENGTH OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO 19.) [redacted] PREDICTED THAT MAJORIY OF COMMITTEE WOULD VOTE TO INVALIDATE ELECTION, AND THAT, AS OFNOW, MAJORITY OF FULL ASSEMBLY WOULD DO LIKEWISE. AS FOR HIMSELF, [redacted] SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED DANGERS INVALIDATION COULD POSE, AND THEREFORE MAY VOTE FOR VALIDATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Leonhardberg DATE 12/24/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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2. ACCORDING TO [redacted] THE DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC IS FOR THE MOST PART AGAINST VALIDATION. THE EXCEPTIONS ARE SENATOR-ELECT TRUONG TIEN DAT AND A FEW OTHER CATHOLICS. [redacted] GAVE IMPRESSION THAT VERY LITTLE WAS DECIDED DURING LUCHEON PRIME MINISTER KY HAD FOR MEMBERS OF DAB. IN ANY CASE, [redacted] DAB MEMBERS BELIEVE THIEU HAS RENEGED ON PRE-ELECTION DEAL WITH KY, AND IN ADDITION FEAR REPRISALS FROM GENERAL THIEU IN FUTURE. [redacted] SAID THAT GUARANTEES AGAINST REPRISALS WERE ONE IMPORTANT CONCESSION DAB HOPES TO EXACT IN RETURN FOR FAVORABLE VOTE ON VALIDATION. THUS FAR, THIEU HAS GIVEN THEM NO ANSWER. [redacted] AVERRED THAT LE PHUOC SANG AND SOME KEY MEMBERS OF BLOC ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT "NETOTIATIONS" WITH THIEU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, BUT ADDED THAT OTHERS SEEM IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO INVALIDATION.

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3. IN OTHER ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENTS, MRS DEPUTIES, HEADED BY LY QUY CHUNG AND LAM PHI DIEU, HAVE ISSUED DECLARATION STATING THAT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT RESULTS OF ELECTION AND DEMANDING "TRULY FAIR AND HONEST ELECTION ORGANIZED BY A COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL GOVERNMENT." IN COVERSATION EARLIER IN WEEK WITH [redacted] AGREED REJECTION OF ELECTION COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES, AND INDICATED THAT MRS DEPUTIES WOULD SEEK TO VOTE FOR VALIDATION WHILE AT SAME TIME SOMEHOW INDICATING THEIR DISAPPROVAL. LATER SAME DAY MRS BLOC DRAFTED THEIR RESOLUTION DECLARING ELECTION "VALULESS" AND CALLING FOR NEW ONE.

4. COMMENT: ANTICS OF MRS, AND DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE, ARE INDICATIVE OF VERY FLUID SITUATION EXISTING IN ASSEMBLY AND REFLECT PRIMARILY THE DESIRE OF ALL PARTIES TO MANEUVER THEMSELVES INTO THE BEST POSSIBLE BARGAINING PSOITION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KY IS MEETING TOMORROW (SEPT. 29) WITH THE ENTIRE DAB (MANY MEMBERS HAVING BEEN CALLED BACK FROM THE PROVINCES) AND WE SHOULD HAVE A MUCH BETTER PICTURE OF HOW THE SITUATION IS DEVELOPING AFTER THAT. ALTHOUGH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE FAVORABLE, OUR BEST

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ASSESSMENT AT PRESENT CONTINUES TO BE THAT THE ASSEMBLY WILL VALIDATE THE ELECTIONS.

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